

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of trimming an edge of an aluminum sheet comprising:

providing a die adjacent to one side of a cutting blade;

securing the aluminum sheet in a the die adjacent a the cutting blade at a cutting angle of from about 10 to about 30 degrees measured from a plane perpendicular to a cutting direction of the cutting blade and with a cutting blade clearance of at least 5 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet measured between the blade and the die; and

trimming the aluminum sheet at the cutting angle and with the cutting blade clearance to thereby produce a trimmed aluminum sheet with substantially no slivers.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting angle is from about 15 to about 25 degrees and the clearance is from about 5 to about 20 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade has a maximum edge radius of up to about 0.25mm.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the cutting angle is from about 10 to about 15 degrees and the clearance is from about 7.5 to about 17.5 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the cutting blade has a maximum edge radius of up to about 0.125mm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of trimming an edge of an aluminum sheet comprising:

providing a die and a pad adjacent to one side of a cutting blade;

securing the aluminum sheet between a the die and a the pad at a cutting angle of from about 10 to about 30 degrees adjacent a cutting blade wherein the cutting angle is measured from a plane perpendicular to a cutting direction of the cutting blade that is adjacent to the aluminum sheet, and with a cutting blade clearance of at least about 5 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet measured between the blade and the die; and

trimming the aluminum sheet at the cutting angle and with the cutting blade clearance to thereby produce a trimmed aluminum sheet with substantially no slivers.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 10, wherein the cutting angle is from about 15 to about 25 degrees.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of Claim 10, wherein the clearance is at least about 10 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the clearance is less than about 20 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the clearance is from about 10 to about 17.5 percent of the thickness of the aluminum sheet.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising providing the cutting blade with an edge radius of up to about 0.25mm.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising providing the cutting blade with an edge radius of up to about 0.75mm.